



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Testimony Concerning House Bill 6254 An Act Concerning the Administration of Medications by Medical Assistants at Federally Qualified Health Centers

Public Health Committee

March 7, 2017

Similar to the testimony provided by the Fairfield County Medical Association concerning House Bill 6025, An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Medications under Supervision, the Association also supports the purpose behind House Bill 6254. The principle difference between the two bills is that HB 6254 would allow medical assistants only in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to administer medication, including vaccines, under the order of a licensed health care provider who is authorized to prescribe medication, provided the medical assistant has completed the requisite training. HB 6025 would allow medical assistants to give vaccines and other medication in any setting where there is direct supervision by a physician or other licensed health care practitioner who is authorized to prescribe medications.

In addition to FQHCs, the venues should be expanded where medical assistants may administer medication to include any setting where physicians and other licensed health care providers who are authorized to prescribe medication, may practice. The medical assistants who are allowed to give a medication and/or administer a vaccine must be certified and fully trained, on the orders, and under direct supervision of a medical doctor or other licensed health care professional who is authorized to prescribe vaccines and other medications.

The medical assistants should be graduates of accredited national programs and they should be certified by a national certifying agency.

Broadening the proposal to include other settings such as physicians' private offices where medical assistants may administer vaccines and other possible medications would safely relieve some of the clinical burden that many physicians are currently facing in Connecticut.

We thank you for your consideration of our position and we will gladly work with you on the details of the final proposal.

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